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Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 IO-13 ADP-00 AID-20 PC-04 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 SR-02 ORM-03 RSR-01

/163 W

---------- 055267

P 111400Z JUL 73
FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2541
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY KAMPALA
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NY

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT RW
SUBJ: RWANDA COUP

REF: KIGALI 0429

1. SUMMARY: VARIOUS SOURCES CONTINUE TO REPORT WIDESPREAD SATISFACTION WITH CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT AND OPTIMISM, EVEN AMONG TUTSIS, ABOUT FUTURE. ADDITIONAL ACCOUNT OF STRANGE EVENTS OF NIGHT JULY 4-5 WHICH PRECIPITATED COUP CONFORMS IN ESSENTIAL ASPECTS WITH ACCOUNT REPORTED KIGALI 0422, PARTICULARLY THAT HABYALIMANA AND OTHERS WERE MARKED FOR DEATH. KOREAN CHARGE HAS AUTHORITY RECOGNIZE NEW
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GOVERNMENT. LIBYAN OFFICIAL VISITS HABYALIMANA.

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EX-MINISTERS ARE AT LIBERTY BUT SEVERAL FORMER
HIGH-RANKING PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANTS ARE
INCARCERATED IN RUHENGERI. THESE
ARE DOUBTLESS THE "WORST" OF THE "BAD ADVISERS"
WHO GUARD CHARGED HAD SET GOVERNMENT ON WRONG
COURSE. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY CONTINUES RECEIVE REPORTS THAT CHANGE
OF GOVERNMENT GENERALLY WELCOMED. APOSTOLIC
CHARGE INFORMED US JULY 11 OF MEETING IN KIGALI
JULY 10 OF PRINCIPAL PRIESTS OF KABGAYI (GITARAMA)
ARCHDIOCESE AT WHICH GENERAL APPROVAL REGISTERED
OF GUARD'S TAKEOVER. CHARGE COMMENTED THAT CHURCH
HAD PROBLEMS WITH KAYIBANDA GOVERNMENT SUCH AS
GOVERNMENT'S INSISTENCE ON ETHNIC RATIO IN
SEMINARIES. WITH RESPECT TO VOCATIONS TO PRIESTHOOD
THIS WAS AN UNREALISTIC AND TROUBLESOME
REQUIREMENT. WHEN I MENTIONED IT WAS SURPRISING
THESE PRIESTS WOULD TURN AGAINST DEVOUT CATHOLIC
LIKE KAYIBANDA (WHO IS NOT ONLY FAITHFUL CHURCHGOER
BUT COMMUNICANT), HE SAID HABYALIMANA WAS ALSO
PRACTICING CATHOLIC WHO HAD COMPLETED HALF OF
FOUR YEAR COURSE IN MAJOR SEMINARY LEADING TO
PRIESTHOOD. HE SAID PRIESTS WHO HAD GATHERED
YESTERDAY WERE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT FUTURE CHURCH/
STATE RELATIONS UNDER NEW REGIME. BELGIAN-UNIVERSITY
TRAINED HUTU WITH RESPONSIBLE POSITION IN PRIVATE
ENTERPRISE KIGALI EXPRESSED TO US HIS DECIDED
APPROVAL OF EVENTS STRESSING, AS EVERYONE SEEMS
TO, HIS HIGH REGARD FOR KAYIBANDA AS PERSON AND
CERTIFIED PATRIOT. BUT KAYIBANDA HAD BECOME
"TIRED" ("FATIGUE" -- THEY ALL USE SAME WORD)
AND AMENABLE TO BAD INFLUENCES AND HIS GOVERNMENT
HAD COMMITTED ONE "ABERRATION" AFTER ANOTHER.
HE CITED EX-GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR
ETHNIC VIOLENCE LAST FEBRUARY-MARCH, SENSELESS
EXPULSION OF FOREIGNERS, UNJUST MASSIVE
DISCRIMINATION IN FAVOR GITARAMA PEOPLE, ETC.
IN EXPECTATION NEW REGIME WILL
PROTECT THEIR RIGHTS RWANDAN TUTSIS ARE REPORTED
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ELATED. ONE SAID HE WAS SLEEPING SOUNDLY FOR FIRST
TIME IN MONTHS. CRS DIRECTOR (FRENCHMAN) TELLS
US FROM HIS SOUNDINGS "100 PERCENT" OF POPULATION
IS GLADDENED BY CHANGE. MEMBER INDIAN HIGH
COMMISSION KAMPALA WHO HAS BEEN TRAVELING THROUGHOUT
RWANDA SINCE JULY 1, TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER JULY 11
THAT ASIAN BUSINESSMEN ARE VERY HAPPY ABOUT
CHANGE FEELING THEY HAVE NEW LEASE ON (BUSINESS)

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LIFE.

3. CRS CHIEF CITES FOLLOWING ACCOUNT BY KNOWLEDGEABLE GITARAMA-BASED PRIEST OF EVENTS AT PRESIDENT'S HOUSE NIGHT OF JULY 4-5 WHICH ESSENTIALLY CONFORMS TO BELGIAN ADVISER'S STORY REPORTED KIGALI 0422. GITARAMA PRIEST RECOUNTED THAT BANK GOVERNOR BIRARA, GENERAL HABYALIMANA AND OTHER PRINCIPAL NATIONAL GUARD OFFICERS WERE TO BE CALLED TO PRESIDENCY ONE BY ONE THAT NIGHT AND ASSASSINATED, WITH CAPTAIN BIZIMANA THE TRIGGER MAN. NEXT DAY PRESIDENCY WOULD HAVE ANNOUNCED THESE MEN HAD COME TO ASSASSINATE PRESIDENT AND WERE KILLED IN ATTEMPT. STORY SAYS HABYALIMANA MANAGED TO ESCAPE AND THEN RETURNED WITH TROOPS AND TOOK OVER. IN HIS ENGLISH-LANGUAGE REPORT TO HIS SUPERIORS CRS DIRECTOR CONCLUDES: "IT MIGHT BE SAID COUP D'ETAT CERTAINLY HAS POSITIVE ASPECTS; THE ATTITUDE OF THE GENERAL, WHAT HE DID, WHAT HE SAID SO FAR, WON HIM MUCH SYMPATHY. PROVIDED THE ARMY REMAINS AS WISE AS IT SEEMS WANT TO REMAIN, THE NEW CLIMATE THUS CREATED WILL BE PROPITIOUS TO THE GENERAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY."

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 IO-13 ADP-00 AID-20 PC-04 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 SR-02 ORM-03 RSR-01

EA-11 /174 W
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P R 111425Z JUL 73
FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2542
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
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4. KOREAN CHARGE' VISITED ME JULY 11. HE HAS FOUND GENERAL SATISFACTION AMONG RWANDANS WITH DEVELOPMENTS. ON RECOGNITION ISSUE, HE SAID HE HAD NOW BEEN AUTHORIZED BY SEOUL TO "REAFFIRM" KOREA'S FRIENDSHIP WITH RWANDA AND TO INFORM NEW GOVERNMENT THAT COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE WOULD CONTINUE.

5. GOVERNMENT RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT LATE JULY 10 REPORTED BURUNDIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SIMBANANIYE HAD PASSED THROUGH ON WAY TO KAMPALA AND THAT SAME FLIGHT BROUGHT "LIBYAN MINISTER OF LABOR" (PROBABLY GARGUM MENTIONED BUJUMBURA 0700) WHO AMBASSADOR HAS NOT YET BEEN INVITED SEE HABYALIMANA.
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THIS FACT PLUS VISIT OF LIBYAN PLUS APPARENT CORDIALITY OF THE EXCHANGES WITH AMIN AND MICOMBERO ARE BELEIVED TO BE CAUSING ISRAELI AMBASSADOR SOME CONCERN AS TO FUTURE. EMBASSY INCLINED BELIEVE ANY SUCH FEARS PREMATURE FOR IT DOUBTFUL HABYALIMANA WOULD HURRY TO APE AMIN AND MICOMBERO RE ISRAEL. BESIDES ISRAEL ARMY OFFICERS WHO MANAGE AGRICULTURAL TRAINING PROGRAMS WITHIN MINISTRY NATIONAL GUARD HAVE WORKED CLOSELY WITH HABYALIMANA.

6. SECURITY MEASURES HAVE BEEN RELAXED. ARMORED CARS HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM CENTER OF KIGALI. TRAVELERS ARE ARRIVING KIGALI FROM BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH OF COUNTRY WITHOUT DIFFICULTY AND REPORT THEIR DISTRICTS CALM. MOST MINISTERS ATE AT LIBERTY AND MANY HAVE RETURNED "TO HILLS." ELIE NTALIKURE, FORMER SECRETARY-GENERAL OF PRESIDENCY, IS REPORTED STILL UNDER HOUSE ARREST. REPORTED IN PRUON AT RUHENGERI ARE FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR CIVIL SERVICE NYILIBAKWE, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR YOUTH AND SPORTS BIZIMANA, PRESIDENCY DIRECTORS GENERAL HODARI, GASAMUNYIGA AND BINZIDELI. LATTER HAD JUST BEFORE COUP BEEN APPOINTED DIRECT OF THE NEW STATE TRADING

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OFFICE. PHOTOGRAPHS OF KAYIBANDA HAVE BEEN
REMOVED FROM GOVERNMENT OFFICES.
CORRIGAN

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